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S-31147A

ET327548479US

JC10 RECEIVED 15 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

STEIMER *et al.*

Serial Number: National Stage Application  
of PCT/EP00/08994

Filed: March 15, 2002

For: Transcriptionally Silenced Plant Genes

Art Unit: TBA

Examiner: TBA

Atty Docket: S-31147A

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX PCT  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 2202

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the above-captioned application be amended as follows in advance of prosecution:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 1, after the title, please insert:

This application is a § 371 of International Application No. PCT /EP00/08994,  
filed September 14, 2000.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 5 to read as follows:

5. (Amended) The nucleic acid of claim 1 comprising an open reading frame encoding a protein comprising a component sequence of at least 200 amino acids in length being at least 85% identical to an aligned component of SEQ ID NO: 10.